

FOOLS FOR CHRIST'S SAKE

1 Cor 4: 6-13

Church of Corinth full of proud and braggadocios people:

- ❖ Proud of human wisdom
- ❖ Proud of human leaders

1 Cor. 4:6

These illustrations teach philosophy of ministry

Must not pit one leader against another.

I have in a figure ...

Used our names to save embarrassment of leaders in church.

above that which is written, You have exceeded what is written concerning how ought to view men.

Turned your respect into unhealthy worship and exaltation of men.

Num 11. Moses held in high respect by people.

Find 70 men of elders of Israel

Eldad and Medad prophesied in camp

Num. 11:29 *And Moses said unto him, Enviest thou for my sake? would God that all the LORD'S people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit upon them!*

Mac: *Joshua's loyalty to Moses was misplaced. Misplaced loyalty, even to faithful men of God, inevitably brings hostility to others of God's servants. It causes envy, competition, and division.*

Puffed up: inflate, blow; inflated view of self. arrogant.

Proud and arrogant people prone to elevate one above another

1 Cor. 4:7

Question one:

Who makes you so superior to others

Why your group better than others?

You are made of same materials as all others.

Question two:

Who gave you what you have?

Mac: *No matter how hard we may have studied in school and worked at our business or profession, we would have nothing except for what the Lord and many others, by His providential hand, have given us.*

Question three:

If someone gave it to you, why brag as if you earned it

Who really deserves glory! God!

Why so blessed? Not because of any thing you did.

Because God gave it to you.

Thought: God could decide to take it away

Matthew Hen: ... 4 kinds of pride ... *Pride of race...of place..of face..of grace.*

Style of communication-- very effective tool in giving out Word

Wiersbe: *Sanctified sarcasm*

Barnes: *The whole passage is an instance of most pungent and cutting sarcasm and shows that there may be occasions when irony may be proper, though it should be rare.*

1 Kings 18:27 Elijah

1 Cor. 4:8

Paul *heaps on feigned pride.*

My, aren't you a great bunch of people?

You have spiritually arrived, haven't you!?

Statement #1: *Now **ye are full***

You think you have all you need.

Full: ...banquet...eaten until can't eat any more.

We have arrived!

Ie. Church of Laodicea in Rev. 3:16-19

Statement #2: *now **ye are rich**,*

In spiritual gifts and graces.

Statement #3: ***ye have reigned as kings without us:***

Martin: *They were acting as though the millennial kingdom had already begun and the Lord Jesus had already apportioned His rewards.*

Without us: without any counsel, or teaching, or help from us apostles.

Attitude: get along without any help from apostles.

Lenski: *They were silly people to act as though they had left Paul, Apollos, and Peter far behind, the very men from whom they had obtained everything they really had.*

Godly attitude:

Full vs I'm hungry

Rich vs I'm poor

Kings vs I'm no better than you.

8... and I would to God *ye did reign*...

I wish you were as fulfilled and happy and blessed of God as you think yourselves to be.

1 Cor. 4:9

Set forth: Placed in public spectrum; open view

Last: of the lowest condition, the humblest state; similar to beasts.

as it were appointed to death: as criminals condemned to die.

Seneca: *This was perfect butchery, and those exposed to beasts in the morning were treated mercifully in comparison with these.*

How would you live if you were under the sentence of death?

What we are:

1. Spectacles

Spectacle: theatre.

Barnes: *Paul represents himself as on this arena or stage, contending with foes, and destined to death. Around him and above him are an immense host of men and angels, looking on at the conflict and awaiting the issue. He is not alone or unobserved. He is made public; and the universe gazes on the struggle.*

and to angels, and to men. They are observing.

1 Cor. 4:10

2. Fools

Fools: morons, dull, stupid, heedless, blockheads, absurd

There is something about gospel that always make us unpopular

Wise: thoughtful, discreet, intelligent

John Gill: *Their ministers took care to preach, and they to profess Christ, in such a manner as to retain the favour of the world, and to escape reproach and persecution.*

3. Weak. *We are weak, but ye are strong;*

Weak: more feeble, impotent, sick, without strength

Strong: mighty, valiant, powerful

4. Despised. *ye are honourable, but we are despised.*

Honourable: splendid, noble, glorious, gorgeous

Despised: without honor, base, of less esteem

Sarcastic...full of irony.

Don't expect world to applaud you .

They look at you as someone who's really gone off deep end.

Stedman: *They had so accommodated, so compromised with the world around that the world was not persecuting them anymore. ... They had adjusted their teaching so that worldly wisdom penetrated everything they said and did, and the world thought it was great. They had adjusted their actions so that nobody was offended by them, and they never had to tell anybody that something was wrong. As we will see in the succeeding passages, the Corinthians accommodated to it all; they put up with anything in the church; they never told anybody they were doing wrong.*

1 Cor. 4:11 *Even unto this present hour As we speak.*

Continually.

we both hunger, and thirst: Paul potentially a wealthy man.

and are naked: No money or friends to replenish their clothes.

Barnes: *Paul was not ashamed to travel, to preach, and to appear before princes and kings, in a soiled and worn-out garment, for it was worn out in the service of his Master, and Divine Providence has arranged the circumstances of his life.*

Buffeted, to be cuffed or struck with fists on body or face as slaves and criminals
No certain dwellingplace;

Lenski: *Without a fixed abode, shifting about constantly. Homeless. Often, the apostles were shunned by whole communities. Gentiles – didn't like them because of their Jewish character.*

1 Cor. 4:12

Labour: toil, work to point of exhaustion.

Greeks considered beneath their dignity.

1. Being Reviled, we bless

Reviled: abused with words, reproached, publicly embarrassed, ridiculed.

Bless: speak well of, thank or invoke a benediction, to praise.

Trials don't make you...they reveal you. Matthew 5:44

2. Being persecuted, we suffer it.

Persecuted: followed after, pressed, put to flight, driven away

Suffer it: patiently endure; don't try to retaliate or get revenge.

Barnes: *we abstain from resenting or resisting it.*

3. Being defamed, we entreat.

1 Cor. 4:13

Defamed: Blasphemed; spoken of and to, in harsh, abusive, and reproachful manner

Entreat: Conciliate; make earnest appeal; beg

Filth:

Barnes: *It denotes filth, or that which is collected by sweeping a house, or that which is collected and cast away by purifying or cleansing anything; any vile worthless, and contemptible object; the rinsing of dirty pots and pans.*

Offscouring: the food particles wiped off dishes and pots by rubbing hard.

We are regarded as nothing but dust and garbage!

SO WHAT?

Bottom line: We are

1. Ministers

2. Stewards

Effective/fruitful

1. Faithful

2. Humble

Attitude:

No better than anybody else (v.7)

Everything given to us (v.7)

Don't glory in self-importance

Characterize committed Christian from world's point of view:

1. Spectacle
2. Fool
3. Weak
4. Despised

Decision: Be a fool for Christ!

Willing to be unpopular for Christ

Spiritual reactions:

1. Being reviled we bless — speak well of
2. Being persecuted, we suffer it — don't retaliate.
3. Being defamed, we entreat — Conciliate. Be peace-maker.